

# Joint Information Center Fire Update

Dawes County Complex \* Thayer/Sioux County Complex

*Saturday, August 5, 2006 - 12 P.M.*

Information: Dawes: 308-432-6400    [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)

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Demobilization of firefighters and National Guardsmen continue throughout the weekend as fire teams continue to mop up and rehabilitate the area. Some firefighters will remain in the area for at least another week. Fires in the complex are considered 100 percent contained. Firefighters continue to conduct reconnaissance in areas where heat problems exist in the interior of the fire boundaries. The Dawes County Complex is currently being controlled by a Type 3 Team.

The Nebraska National Forest has ordered two closures. The fire order issued pertains to the recently burned area in Dawes and Sioux counties, specifically to the Pine Ridge Ranger District. It is prohibited to drive a motor vehicle in the restricted area except for the following roads:

- 1) Road #717 – Hilltop Road (Job Corps Bypass)
- 2) Road #718
- 3) Road #720 – Kings Canyon Road
- 4) Road #723 – Little Wolf Road
- 5) Road #737 – Roberts Tract Road

This order is necessary to protect soil and watershed resources within the Dawes County Complex.

Prohibitions also include a fire restriction in the Buffalo Gap and Oglala National Grasslands. These bans include: no open fires or campfires or no outdoor smoking. In addition, operating an ATV not equipped with a spark arresting device is prohibited. Chainsaws cannot be used from 12 p.m. to 1 a.m. Persons holding a permit from the forest service may receive approval specifically authorizing permission.

The Thayer/Sioux County Complex fire team has transitioned operations to local authorities with some National Guardsmen and local fire departments monitoring the area. This complex is 100 percent contained with a total of 40,211 acres burned.

As temperatures remain high, residents will continue to see smoke from smoldering trees or stumps in the fire areas. They may also see “dust devils,” which look very similar to smoke columns, however, they may just be swirls of ash and dust picked up and carried by winds. These are usually short-term duration events. If you suspect you are seeing a new fire start, call 911 or your local fire department.

## **Dawes County Complex**

**Total Acres:** 27,954

(Spotted Tail – 17,935, Roberts Tract – 9,934, Deadhorse – 85)

**Acres by Jurisdiction:** National Forest – 16,938, Other - 11,016

**Containment:** 100 percent

**Location:** South and southwest of Chadron, NE

**Resources:** Total personnel: 178, which includes: 3 crews, 17 engines, 2 dozers

**Air support available:** 1 helicopter

**Cost to date:** \$3.12 million